

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005. Claims 1-19 are now present in this case. Claims 16 and 18 are amended.

The applicants have provided formal drawings incorporating the changes requested by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to correct a minor informality in the abstract. Claims 16 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to correct a minor informality.

The applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for a telephone interview with the applicants' attorney on March 23, 2005. As discussed in the telephone conference, the claims are presently rejected on the basis of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,291 to Tayloe.

As discussed with the Examiner, Tayloe does not suggest apportioning satellite data into first and second portions. The satellite cell cluster list is illustrated in Figure 4 of Tayloe. At a first time, the cell cluster list is downloaded, decoded, and stored in a cell cluster list 134 (see Figure 10) within the subscriber unit. At a second subsequent time, the cell cluster list is downloaded from the satellite, decoded, and stored in the cell cluster list 134 in the subscriber unit. Tayloe then describes additional processing of the data within the subscriber unit. Specifically, Taylor describes a process where the cell cluster list 134 is evaluated to determine if there is a match between the satellite vehicle ID and beam ID. This is illustrated in Figure 9 of Tayloe where, following step 132 where data is added to the cell cluster list 134, a decision is illustrated to determine whether satellite vehicle and beam IDs match a previous entry in the cell cluster list 134. If so, the cell cluster list 134 is modified (see Figure 10) to add a link 138 identifying the matching satellite entry. If the satellite entries match, a process is illustrated in Figure 11 where the satellite having the greatest received signal strength is used for communication with the subscriber unit.

The applicants discussed claim 1 of Tayloe with the Examiner. It should be noted that claim 1 describes the processing of the second list of candidate target cells illustrated in the flow charts of Figures 9 and 11. Specifically, the method of claim 1 in Tayloe recites “some candidate target cells of said second list having a same cell ID as candidate target cells of said first list but having different broadcast channels, said broadcast channel of some of said candidate target cells changing in between the steps of receiving said first and second list of candidate target cells.” (See column 11, lines 60-67.) Claim 1 of Tayloe goes on to recite linking the candidate target cells and determining an average signal strength. However, it should be noted that the process recited in claim 1 of Tayloe requires the reception and decoding of the first and second lists of candidate target cells. The fact that Tayloe describes additional processing of the received and decoded data stored in the cell cluster list 134 within the subscriber unit does not teach or suggest apportioning data transmitted from the satellite into first and second portions and only decoding one of the first and second portions, as recited in, by way of example, claim 1 of the pending application. Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly allowable over Tayloe. Claims 2-6 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 1, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

Claim 7 recites “neighbouring cell data comprising a first portion relating to cells served by a first satellite in an orbit ... and a second portion relating to cells served by a second satellite” with “the second portion of the cell data being modified in dependence on the relative motion of the first and second satellites.” As noted above, Tayloe does not suggest apportioning satellite data into first and second portions at all. Tayloe refers to first and second lists that are sequentially received by the subscriber unit and additional processing performed on the first and second received lists. This does not suggest apportioning a list into first and second portions relating to cells served by first and second satellites, respectively. Accordingly, claim 7 is clearly allowable over Tayloe. Claims 8-9 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 7, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

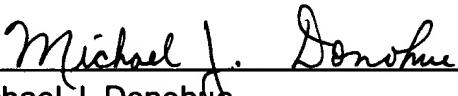
Claim 10 recites “upon a first of the plurality of occasions, decoding the first and second data portions and upon subsequent ones of the plurality of occasions,

decoding only a selected one of the first and second data portions.” As discussed above, Tayloe does not suggest apportioning data, but describes a process by which first and second sequentially received lists are subsequently processed to detect common satellite IDs. Tayloe describes a process by which the first and second sequentially received lists are decoded and stored within the subscriber unit and subsequently processed by the subscriber unit. This does not teach or suggest decoding only a portion of the satellite neighboring cell data transmitted from the satellites. Accordingly, claim 10 is clearly allowable over Tayloe. Claims 11-14 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 10, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

Claim 15 is directed to a mobile station and receives a set of neighboring cell data transmitted in a broadcast from one of the first and second satellites on a plurality of occasions with “the received data set comprising first and second data portions relating to communication with the first and second satellites, respectively.” Claim 15 further recites a “decoder configured to decode the first and second data portions upon a first of the plurality of occasions that the receiver receives the data set, and to decode only a selected one of the first and second data portions upon subsequent ones of the plurality of occasions that the receiver receives the data set.” Tayloe does not teach or suggest decoding only a portion of the received data set. Tayloe describes a process in which the list is received the second time, completely decoded and stored in the subscriber unit and subsequently analyzed to determine if there are matches between the satellite and channel. Accordingly, claim 15 is clearly allowable over Tayloe. Claims 16-19 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 15, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the subject application and its allowance are kindly requested. The applicants have made a good faith effort to place all claims in condition for allowance. If questions remain regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7640.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

7 Sheets of Drawings (Figs. 1-8)
Revocation of Power of Attorney
Power of Attorney
Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b)
Copy of Assignment
Request to Amend Attorney Docket Number

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